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P R E F A C E.

To the Chairman and Members of the Essex County Council.

I have the honour to present my Twenty-sixth Annual Report (the fifty-fifth to be issued) on the health of the Administrative County of Essex for the year 1944. Earlier publication has been impossible owing to the acute shortage of staff and the ever-increasing duties falling upon the Department.

The usual statistical tables are in their appropriate sections in the main body of the report, the main points of which are summarised below :—

Birth-rate showed a marked increase from 17.7 to 19.4, which is the highest rate recorded since 1920, when the figure was 20.0

Death-rate increased from 11.6 to 11.8.

Infant Mortality remained at the very low figure of 38, which compares very favourably with the rate of 46 for England and Wales.

Maternal Mortality in the County Council's Welfare Area decreased from 2.46 to 2.11.

Smallpox has not occurred in the Administrative County since 1934.

Notifications of Infectious Disease fell from 24,744 in 1943 to 13,137 in 1944.

Excellent results of the Diphtheria Immunization Campaign are again reflected in a further reduction of notifications from 351 to 160. Fourteen years ago the figure was 3,103.

Treatment of Tuberculosis.

In Part II of the Report, some particulars of this ever-increasing service are recorded. There was a decrease in the notification-rate and death-rate from tuberculosis. Reference was made last year to the new scheme dealing with financial allowances for tuberculosis patients. Assistance under that scheme was granted to 592 patients. The Mass Miniature Radiography Scheme was prepared in 1944, but unfortunately it could not be launched until the following year. Much credit is due to the Medical Superintendents, Matrons and Staff in Sanatoria for the splendid way in which they have met staffing and other difficulties.

Venereal Diseases.

The number of Essex patients treated for the first time increased again from 2,073 to 2,218, but there was a decrease in the number of attendances from 30,125 to 29,435. The Social Worker has already achieved good results, and the first year's experience has shown how this new service can secure a helpful relationship between patient and clinic.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Insufficiency of hospital accommodation for maternity patients has continued despite all the Committee's efforts to overcome staffing and other difficulties. There is an increasing demand for this accommodation, and every effort has been made to provide extra beds, particularly in the Wanstead Area.

Mr. Alan Brews' services as part-time Obstetric Consultant have again proved invaluable, particularly at the Danbury Park Maternity Home and St. John's Hospital.

The County Council is very grateful to General and Mrs. Wigan for continuing in such an efficient and homely manner the Maternity Home at Danbury Park.

Acknowledgement must also be made of the excellent work of the Essex County Nursing Association, whose District Nursing Associations and District Nurse Midwives form one of the major parts of the County Council's Child Welfare Scheme. I take this opportunity of recording my grateful thanks to the County Superintendent (Miss Davieson), who retired in 1945, for all she has done for the District Nursing and Child Welfare Services. She was an indefatigable worker and undoubtedly had at heart the interests of the mothers and babies in the Association's Area.

General Sanitation.

Schemes for improving and modernising sewage works are deferred until after the war. Meanwhile, efforts are being made to secure the best possible results with the existing facilities. Post-war developments of towns and the demand for modern amenities in rural areas call for early attention to sewage disposal arrangements in many areas in the County. Financial help for such schemes in rural localities is envisaged in the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.

The Milk Sub-Committee has continued its good work of supervising 1,018 farms, which they have licensed to produce designated milks. When the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries names the appointed day under the Food and Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act, 1944, the whole of this work will be taken from County Councils and transferred to the Ministry. Latest information seems to indicate that this branch of the work will be linked up with the Ministry's Milk Testing and Advisory Service.

Laboratory Service.

The comprehensive pathological laboratory service started in March, 1942, under an agreement with the Ministry of Health, has continued its useful work. Since October, 1943, all specimens examined have been recorded on a unit basis, approximately at the rate of four units per specimen. At this rate the number of specimens reached 87,152 for the year 1944, against 70,375 for the year 1943. These laboratories centred in different parts of the County have proved a great success, and each year since their establishment the number of specimens submitted has increased. They are much more convenient for the local medical practitioners.

The supplementary service at the Counties Public Health Laboratories at Gidea Park continued the examination of samples of water, sewage effluent, milk and other foods. The bulk of the samples of milk, however, are examined at the Essex Institute of Agriculture, and all samples for biological examination are still sent to Dr. A. L. Weather, of Chorley Wood. This supplementary service has been a great help, not only to my Department but to the local Sanitary Inspectors throughout the County.

Provision of Hospital Service.

The County Council's Hospitals and Institutions were again extensively used in connection with the emergency hospital organisation, some 3,771 beds being reserved

for the admission of the classes of patient for whom treatment was provided under that scheme. Particulars of the extensive preparations which were made in anticipation of D-Day, and of the testing time of the hospital service during the flying bomb and rocket bomb raids, are referred to in more detail in the body of the report.

The application of the principles laid down in the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Disabled Persons (The Tomlinson Report) has been fully investigated in consultation with the Medical Superintendents of the Council's hospitals, representatives of voluntary hospitals and of other departments of the Council's service. Pending the starting of any schemes within the County, arrangements were made whereby 40 patients a year could be sent to the Rehabilitation Centre at Roffey Park, Horsham, Sussex.

Civil Defence Casualty Services.

During the early part of 1944, the lull in enemy air activity continued, but the Civil Defence Casualty Services remained on the alert and were in a position to cope with the renewed influx of casualties during the latter part of the year which were caused by the flying bombs and rocket bombs. Nevertheless, in September, 1944, it was considered that it was no longer necessary to maintain this service at its full strength and, as a result of authority received from the Ministry of Home Security, a proportion of the whole-time members were released to take up other work.

Central Staff.

On 31st March, 1944, the Chief Clerk (Mr. L. Hey), resigned to take up a similar post with the Kent County Council. He had been a very active and helpful member of the Central Staff for 24 years, and I am indebted to him for his loyal co-operation and assistance over such a long period, and particularly for the splendid way in which he guided and controlled the clerical staff in this Department.

In my report for 1941, I referred to the retirement from the post of Deputy County Medical Officer of Dr. T. P. Puddicombe. It is with great regret that I now record his sudden death on 29th September, 1945. He had spent so much of his life in looking after the health of others that most of us hoped that his own health, which always seemed so good, would ensure for him many happy years in retirement. We have lost a good colleague and friend.

Conclusion.

Throughout the year the confidence and support of the Chairmen and members of the Public Health and Public Assistance Committees have been a source of strength to the staff in dealing with the many and difficult problems which have arisen. I am especially indebted to the Medical Officers of Health and other Officers of the Local Sanitary Authorities, and to all the members of the staff of the County Public Health Department for their co-operation.

W. A. BULLOUGH.

County Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD.

20th February, 1946.

PART I.

ACREAGE AND POPULATION.

The following table sets out particulars of the Registrar-General's estimated population for the year 1944, compared with the census figures of 1931. The table gives as in previous years, the rateable value and the product of a 1d. rate.

	Acres. Census, 1931.	Population. Census, 1931.	Registrar- General's Estimated Population, 1944.	Rateable Value, 1st April, 1944.
Administrative County of Essex	959,464	1,189,004	1,263,140	£10,508,096

The product of a 1d. rate is estimated at £40,846.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The social conditions were given in the report for the year 1937.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The chief vital statistics of the Administrative County compared with those for England and Wales during 1944 are set out below :—

	Essex.		England and Wales.	
	1940-1944.	1944.	1940-1944.	1944.
Birth-Rate per 1,000 population	16.7	19.4	15.7	17.6
Death-Rate per 1,000 population	11.7	11.8	12.5	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births ..	39	38	52	46
Still-Births Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	28	26	Not available.	Not available.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A summary of the notification of infectious diseases in the various Sanitary Districts during 1944 is set out in Table VIII on page 42. The table shows that 13,137 persons were notified to be suffering from infectious diseases as compared with 24,744 in the year 1943.

Scarlet Fever and Measles were less prevalent than in the previous year. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified was 2,448 in 1944 as against 5,181 in 1943, the number of deaths being four and six respectively. There were considerably fewer cases of Measles notified during the year, the figures being only 3,044 in the year 1944 as compared with 13,670 in the year 1943.

The notifications of Whooping Cough, however, showed an increase, the number being 4,893 in 1944 and 2,412 in 1943.

Again in 1944 no cases of Smallpox were notified.

Assistance to General Practitioners and Householders in case of Epidemics.

In the latter part of 1943 there was a considerable rise in the number of cases of influenza which is reflected in the rise in the number of deaths from this cause as shown in Table VII—(316 in 1943 as compared with 100 in 1942). At the beginning of 1944 therefore, at the request of the Ministry of Health, arrangements had been completed for the provision of assistance to medical practitioners, and where necessary, householders, to mitigate hardship and difficulties which might be caused by the epidemic of influenza.

It was arranged that general practitioners and factory doctors in urgent need of assistance should apply to the appropriate Honorary Secretaries of Local Medical War Committees who would, if satisfied as to the urgency of the need, arrange through the appropriate A.D.M.S. for the required assistance to be provided from military sources. The County Council's Medical and Health Visiting Staff were also asked to be prepared to render assistance in their areas when required, so far as their normal duties permitted.

Medical Officers of Health and general practitioners were encouraged to make further use in an emergency of the services of personnel of the First Aid Posts and First Aid Points and of the Rest Centre Service. Civil Defence vehicles and the necessary whole-time personnel were made available for the transport of hot meals and for other purposes.

It was indicated that school kitchens and canteens would, where possible, be available, and that members of Youth Organisations would assist in this connection and in regard to the problem of shopping, etc. Preparation was made for the opening of appropriate Rest Centres for the provision of a sit down hot meal at mid-day if the arrangements for communal feeding were found to be inadequate.

The British Red Cross Society, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Women's Voluntary Services co-operated to provide help in the home, upon application for assistance being made by the medical practitioner in attendance or the district nurse.

In the case of domestic crises arising as a result of the general mobilisation of women, the Women's Voluntary Services undertook to provide assistance in connection with shopping, cooking or performing the day to day domestic work of the household and in the case of convalescent patients, to relieve members of the British Red Cross Society or St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Fortunately this particular epidemic abated and it was not necessary for much use to be made of these arrangements, but assistance was provided to overworked general practitioners from military sources in one or two instances.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

As in previous years every assistance has been given to local Sanitary Authorities in connection with Diphtheria Immunisation—County Council premises and medical and nursing staff being loaned in any area where the Medical Officer of Health has desired assistance.

The propaganda campaign was continued by the Ministry of Health in the year 1944 by newspaper publicity, film shows, etc.

The number of children being immunised was maintained and it is gratifying to note that there was a further decrease in the number of cases of diphtheria this year—the total being 160 as compared with 351 in 1943.

SCABIES.

As indicated in previous years the County Council gives every assistance to local sanitary authorities in connection with the treatment of Scabies, loaning premises and medical and nursing staff. Treatment of school children and children under five years of age is carried out at the Council's clinics, and First Aid Posts were available during 1944 to supplement treatment centres. The arrangements whereby the personnel of First Aid Posts were available to assist, continued in operation in many parts of the county. In-patient treatment is provided at the County Council's hospitals and institutions.

ESSEX EPIDEMIOLOGICAL COMMITTEE.

This Committee continued its activities throughout the year eleven meetings being held. Its terms of reference are "to survey periodically the infectious diseases occurring in the Administrative County of Essex and to consider what steps (if any) should be taken to combat those diseases."

Consideration was given to a large variety of subjects including scarlet fever, sonne dysentery, washing facilities in schools, german measles, infective hepatitis, typhus fever, quarantine for contacts of infectious disease, malaria, whooping cough, pulmonary fibrosis in emery workers, streptococcal nasopharyngitis, insecticides, puerperal pyrexia and tetanus.

A memorandum dealing with scarlet fever was prepared and issued for the guidance of Medical Officers of Health, Medical Officers in charge of Hospitals, and General Medical Practitioners.

CANCER.

The number of deaths occurring in the County from Cancer during the year 1944 is shown in the table below. The death rate per 1,000 of the population decreased slightly from 1.90 in 1943 to 1.85 in the year under review :—

	Age Period.						Total.
	0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—	
Borough and Urban Districts	—	3	3	167	768	980	1921
Rural Districts	—	1	—	23	130	259	413
Total for Administrative County	—	4	3	190	898	1239	2334

By circular dated 6th December, 1943, the Minister of Health had extended until 31st March, 1945, the period during which the arrangements to be made by Local Authorities under the Cancer Act, 1939, should be submitted.

Arising out of the practical completion of the installation and equipment of the Deep X-Ray Therapy Unit at the Oldchurch County Hospital, Romford, initial consideration, in conjunction with the London Hospital, was given to the preparation of an interim scheme under the Act for submission to the Ministry of Health.

TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

Attendances at Clinics.

On page 9 is set out the usual table giving the number of new patients and attendances at clinics.

Travelling Facilities.

During the financial year ended 31st March, 1945, fares of necessitous patients to and from the nearest Clinic were paid by the Council at a cost of £83 18s. 10d.

Regulation 33b.

Below is set out a summary of the working of this Defence Regulation during the year :—

	M.	F.	Total.
(1) Total number in respect of whom Form 1 was received ..	5	134	139
(2) Number of cases in (1) in which attempts were made outside the scope of the Regulation to persuade the contact to be examined before the latter had been named on a second Form 1	*4	67	71
Contacts found	—	56	56
Contacts examined	—	34	34
(3) Number of those in (1) in respect of whom two or more Forms 1 were received	—	19	19
(4) Number of those in (3) who were : —			
Found	—	15	15
Examined after persuasion	—	3	3
Removed	—	1	1
Served with Form 2	—	11	11
Examined after Service of Form 2	—	10	10
Prosecuted for failure : —			
(i) to attend for and submit to medical examination ..	—	1	1
1943 Notifications	—	2	2
(ii) to submit to and continue treatment—			
1943 notification	—	1	1

*In three cases the M.O. of the man's service unit was informed. In the remaining case the man was on foreign service.

Treatment Centre.	Patients from all Areas. Total No. treated for first time.	ESSEX PATIENTS					Total No. of Attendants of Essex Patients.	In-patient Days.	
		Total Number treated for first time suffering from							
		Syphilis.	Soft Chancre.	Gonorrhoea.	Not V.D.	Total.			
London Hospitals	...	21,339	84	4	181	790	1,059	13,757	406
St. Bartholomew's, London...	...	471	—	—	1	2	3	29	—
Romford	...	478	47	—	90	334	471	7,352	892
Chelmsford	...	149	23	—	24	102	149	2,058	10
Colchester	...	275	27	—	60	169	256	3,328	166
Harwich	...	23	2	—	3	14	19	197	—
Ipswich	...	406	—	—	1	3	4	156	—
Southend	...	650	10	—	17	59	86	1,065	—
Gravesend	...	243	12	—	19	40	71	938	—
Bishops Stortford	...	118	7	—	11	15	33	215	—
Tottenham	...	644	5	—	5	57	67	340	—
Total for 1944...	...	24,796	217	4	412	1,585	2,218	29,435	—
Total for 1943...	...	26,605	205	4	374	1,490	2,073	30,125	—
" 1942...	...	19,430	211	4	422	913	1,550	28,117	—
" 1941...	...	18,254	207	3	429	703	1,342	24,062	—
" 1940...	...	18,840	136	1	292	619	1,048	22,932	—

Social Worker.

Ministry of Health Circular 2834, dated 23rd July, 1943, indicated the desirability of employing trained Almoners on the staff of venereal diseases clinics. In addition to establishing a helpful relationship between the patient and the clinic and acting as friendly advisers, they would follow up attendances and facilitate continuance and completion of treatment, and also help to overcome difficulties connected with the patient's home or work and plans for the future.

As a result of this Circular and in view of the many special problems arising as a result of the war, the establishment of the post of a Social Worker was approved. An appointment was made at the beginning of February, 1944, but owing to domestic difficulties, the officer concerned found it necessary to resign in April. It was not possible to make another appointment until August, 1944.

However, much useful work was carried out during the year 1944, some 338 visits being paid to defaulters, and 205 visits in respect of persons who were the subject of both single and double notifications under Regulation 33B. These notifications often give insufficient details to enable the subject of the notification to be identified, hence a large number of them cannot be traced. It is interesting to note, however, that based on the figures available for 1944, 25 per cent. attend clinics, another 25 per cent. fail to attend, the remainder being untraceable.

The position in regard to defaulters on the same basis is that 25 per cent. resume attendance, 40 per cent. fail to resume attendance and 35 per cent. are untraceable.

Good results from the visiting of defaulters and contacts can only be obtained if it is continuous and regular, and there must be close liaison between the Medical Officer at the clinic and the Social Worker to ensure that the shortest possible time elapses between a patient ceasing to attend a clinic and her first visit.

VACCINATION.

During the year ended 31st December, 1943 (the latest period for which complete information is available) the Vaccination Officers' returns summarised in Table II show that 20,546 births were registered. Of these, 8,365 were successfully vaccinated and in 8,251 instances a statutory declaration of conscientious objection was made. Of the remaining 3,930 births, 826 removed to places unknown, 1,182 removed to districts of other Vaccination Officers who were duly notified. In 164 cases vaccination was postponed by medical certificate, 101 proved insusceptible to vaccination and 573 died unvaccinated. At the end of the year, 1,084 births remained which had not been entered in the vaccination register or temporarily accounted for in the report book.

The information given in previous years in regard to the number of persons successfully vaccinated and re-vaccinated is not available for the year under review.

LABORATORY SERVICE.

BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY SERVICE. The comprehensive service as outlined in Form P.H. 28, dated March, 1942, and by agreement with the Ministry of Health, was continued throughout the year. Specimens were again received and examined at

TABLE II.

VACCINATION.

Guardians Committee Areas.	No. of Births in "Birth List Sheets" registered 1st Jan. to 31st Dec., 1943.	No. of these Births entered by 31.1.45 in Cols. I, II, IV and V of the "Vaccination Register" (Birth List Sheets), viz. :—					No. of Births which on 31.1.45 remained unentered in the "Vac- cination Register" on account of :—			No. of these Births remaining 31.1.45 neither entered in the "Vaccination Register" nor temporarily accounted for in "Report Book."	No. of Certificates of successful Primary Vaccination of Children under 14 received during 1944.	No. of Statutory Declarations of Conscien- tious objection received by V. O. during 1944.
		Col. I. Success- fully vacci- nated.	Col. II.		Col. IV. No. of Statu- tory Decla- rations.	Col. V. Died un- vacci- nated.	Postpone- ment by medical certifi- cate.	Removal to Districts the Vaccination Officers of which have been appraised.	Removal to places to unknown and cases not found.			
			Insus- ceptible of vacci- nation.	Had Small- pox.								
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Braintree ..	858	410	8	—	340	36	4	32	16	12	292	396
Chelmsford ..	2,942	1,227	17	—	907	77	55	330	227	102	1,992	1,049
Colchester ..	2,061	1,089	10	—	772	46	6	62	54	22	1,767	907
Epping ..	1,440	480	6	—	816	30	4	67	27	10	532	704
Saffron Walden	461	286	6	—	140	10	2	6	10	1	516	145
Southern ..	7,377	2,835	39	—	2,935	226	65	369	221	687	4,078	2,750
South-Eastern ..	1,387	407	4	—	694	31	3	117	14	117	534	793
South-Western ..	4,020	1,631	11	—	1,647	117	25	199	257	133	2,434	1,384
	20,546	8,365	101	—	8,251	573	164	1,182	826	1,084	12,145	8,128

The Totals of the figures in columns 3 to 11 agree with the figure in Column 2.

the six laboratories included in that agreement. Since October, 1943, however, the Ministry of Health arranged for the recording of these specimens on a unit basis which from the financial aspect worked out at the rate of four units per specimen. A summary of the work undertaken at each laboratory is given below :—

Laboratory.	No. of Units.
Billericay, St. Andrew's Hospital	68,003
Black Notley, Essex County Council Hospital	31,110
Broomfield, Essex County Council Hospital	65,408
Colchester, Essex County Hospital	48,075
Epping, St. Margaret's Hospital	44,236
Romford, Oldchurch County Hospital	91,776
	<hr/>
	348,608
	<hr/>

Taken at the rate of four units per specimen, the total number of specimens reached 87,152 for the year 1944, against 70,375 for the year 1943.

SUPPLEMENTARY LABORATORY SERVICE. The Counties Public Health Laboratories, Gidea Park, continued the arrangements for a prescribed area made with the late Dr. E. V. Suckling and incorporated in Form P.H. 28a. Below is a summary of the work carried out at this laboratory :—

Kind of Sample.	No. of Examinations.
Water	466
Sewage effluents	373
Milk and other foods	570

OTHER LABORATORY SERVICES. Samples of milk (see Page 14), taken from County Council Hospitals, Institutions and Children's Homes, Schools, Farms, Central Depots and in course of delivery to the consumer are examined by :—

Laboratory.	Examination undertaken.
Essex Institute of Agriculture, Writtle	Bacteriological.
Dr. A. L. Sheather, Chorley Wood	Biological.

SEWAGE WORKS AND RIVERS POLLUTION.

The usual table giving details of visits to, and numbers of samples taken from Sewage Works is omitted.

Grand totals are as follows :—No. of Visits, 411 ; No. of Samples taken, 357, of which 149 or 41.7 per cent. were unsatisfactory.

Some of the Sewage Works provided by Local Sanitary Authorities are inadequate for the purpose. Unfortunately, nothing can be done to improve or extend these works until after the war.

RURAL WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE ACT, 1944.

By Circular 119/44, the Minister of Health drew special attention to this Act which forms part of the Government's general post-war reconstruction programme.

and places at the disposal of the Minister a sum of £15,000,000 to assist schemes executed after the war for the provision or improvement of water supply and for the provision of sewerage facilities in rural localities in England and Wales. Local Authorities were asked to consider the requirements of their districts. Grants which will not be at a fixed rate will normally take the form of lump sum payments towards expenses incurred on approved schemes for *rural localities*.

Under Section 2 of the Act, if the Minister undertakes to make a contribution for either a water or sewage scheme, the County Council concerned is also required to contribute. Consequently, Local Authorities must consult County Councils before submitting their schemes to the Minister. The Minister hopes that County Councils will continue to utilise the contributory powers vested in them since 1929 to the fullest extent and that they will not contribute less generously than under their normal arrangements hitherto.

At the time of writing (December, 1945), 19 schemes for water supplies and sewerage and sewage disposal have been submitted by nine Local Authorities for observations at an estimated cost (1938 figures) of nearly £800,000. The County Council has already furnished their observations on most of these schemes.

In view of the 1944 Act, the County Council took the opportunity to bring up-to-date the contribution scheme approved in 1929, one important amendment being that "all schemes *completed* or commenced by 1st April, 1945, shall, if approved by the County Council, rank for grant."

In accordance with the provisions of the County Council's Scheme made in pursuance of Section 57 of the Local Government Act, 1929, the County Council agreed to make to the under-mentioned Rural District Councils payments of the following amounts, being the approved estimated grants payable in respect of the financial year 1944-45 :—

Rural Districts.							Amount.
							£
Dunmow	..	..	..	..	..	..	529
Halstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	558
Ongar	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,545
Rochford	..		..	..	..	..	667
Saffron Walden	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,676
Tendring	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
							—
							£5,027
							—

MILK SUPPLY.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-43.

(a) LICENCES. There has been a further marked increase in the number of licences to produce Tuberculin Tested milk, which this year has resulted in a decrease in the number of licences to produce Accredited milk. Comparative figures for 1943 and 1944 are :—

Grade.					No. of Licences.	
					1943.	1944.
Tuberculin Tested milk	..	..	..	..	155	221
Accredited milk	..	..	..	..	849	797
					-----	-----
Total	..	..	..	..	1,004	1,018
					-----	-----

Three applications for licences were refused as the applicants failed to comply with the requirements of the Regulations.

Reports upon infringements of the Regulations by licensees were dealt with by the Milk Special Sub-Committee as follows :—

No. of written cautions	..	..	..	..	1
No. of notices of intention to revoke licences	..	..	..	..	47
No. of licences revoked	..	..	..	..	19

(b) SAMPLES OF DESIGNATED MILK. The number of samples obtained remained the same as last year. All the samples were submitted to the methylene blue reduction test, but some were also examined for the presence of coliform bacteria. A summary of the results is given below :—

Quarter ended.	Total.	Satisfactory.			Unsatisfactory.		
		No.	per cent.		No.	per cent.	(1943).
31st March	.. 1,347	.. 1,287	95.5	..	60	4.5	(7.3)
30th June	.. 1,502	.. 1,243	82.8	..	259	17.2	(25.5)
30th September	.. 1,667	.. 1,003	60.2	..	664	39.8	(39.0)
31st December	.. 1,326	.. 1,267	95.6	..	59	4.4	(10.7)
	5,842	..	4,800	82.2	..	1,042	17.8 (21.7)

The improved figures recorded this year are approaching pre-war standards. Licensees who have been in difficulties have again received valuable help from the excellent advisory service provided by the Essex Agricultural Education Sub-Committee and the Essex War Agricultural Executive Committee.

Biological Examinations.

Reports received dealt with 823 samples taken mostly at designated and non-designated farms. 45 gave inconclusive results, 753 were reported free from tubercle bacilli, and 25 (3.2 per cent.) contained tubercle bacilli, as compared to 2.1 per cent. last year.

Details of each positive sample were referred to and followed up by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Milk-in-Schools Scheme.

Samples were obtained at the schools and submitted to biological and bacteriological examinations :—

- (a) BIOLOGICAL. Reports were received upon 174 samples, eleven giving inconclusive results. Six samples (3.7%) were found to contain tubercle bacilli and each case was followed up by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

(b) BACTERIOLOGICAL. 285 samples were taken at the schools and 46 (16.1%) failed to pass the prescribed tests. Further samples were taken with satisfactory results.

National Milk Testing and Advisory Service.

As stated in last year's report, the objects of this scheme, launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in July, 1942, are to prevent as far as possible loss of milk from souring.

Close co-operation has continued between the Essex War Agricultural Executive Committee and the County Council, particularly through the Milk Production Sub-Committee, upon which the County Council has two representatives.

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, will come into operation on a day to be appointed by the Minister of Health. From the appointed day, Milk and Dairies Regulations, and Regulations relating to milk sold under special designations (except pasteurised milk), will be made jointly by the Ministers of Health and Agriculture. Regulations relating to pasteurised milk will continue to be made by the Minister of Health. The registration of dairy farms will be transferred from local authorities to the Minister of Agriculture, who will have power, subject to appeal to a special tribunal, to refuse or cancel registration. Regulations relating to methods of production at dairy farms will be enforced by the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture will also become responsible for licensing producers of the specially designated raw milks, *i.e.*, Tuberculin Tested and Accredited Milks. At the same time, the powers of local authorities to refuse or cancel the registration of dairies and dairymen, which are at present confined to retail dairies and purveyors of milk will be extended to all dairies other than those required to be registered by the Minister of Agriculture. The Act does not affect the other functions of local authorities relating to milk, *e.g.*, control of infected or adulterated milk, or the supervision of hygiene in transport and distribution. The effect of these and other legislative changes will be, broadly, to place with the Minister of Agriculture the responsibility for the supervision of the methods of milk production but to give local authorities control of the handling of milk after it has left the farm.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

I am indebted to the County Analyst for the following information in regard to the work undertaken by him during the year 1944 :—

Samples analysed	..	..	..	..	..	997
Samples unsatisfactory	..	..	..	..	..	157

The usual details regarding kinds of samples examined have been omitted owing to the need for curtailing this Annual Report.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1927.

Arrangements were continued under which Dr. A. R. Forbes, Assistant County Medical Officer, examined and reported on cases suspected to be mentally defective for consideration by the Statutory Committee for the Care of the Mentally Defective.

He also, on application, examined and reported on cases to the Courts of Justice. Drs. W. H. Alderton and W. A. Milne, Assistant County Medical Officers, also assisted.

A total of 144 cases were examined and classified as follows :—

Diagnosis.	Number examined.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.
Feeble-minded	34	26	60
Imbecile	30	16	46
Idiot	3	4	7
Not certifiable under the Acts ..	23	8	31
Total	90	54	144

At the end of 1944 the Statutory Committee were responsible for the care and control or supervision of 2,640 persons, classified under the following headings :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
In Institutions (excluding cases on licence) ..	473	349	822
Under Statutory Supervision ..	872	701	1,573
Under Guardianship (excluding cases on licence) ..	6	15	21
On licence from Institutions ..	97	109	206
On licence from Guardianship ..	4	14	18
Total ..	1,452	1,188	2,640

MENTAL TREATMENT ACT, 1930.

The Consultant Psychiatric Clinics held by Dr. A. G. Duncan, Medical Superintendent of Severalls Mental Hospital, Colchester, at the Chelmsford and Colchester Hospitals, and by Dr. W. G. Masefield, Medical Superintendent of the Brentwood Mental Hospital, at Oldchurch County Hospital, Romford, have continued. Dr. A. G. Duncan reports as follows :—

The Clinic at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester, continues to be held each week. During 1944 there were 174 new patients and the total number of attendances was 421. At the Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, Chelmsford, the Clinic is on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays in each month. There were 47 new patients during the year and the total number of attendances was 142. The number of new patients was considerably smaller than during the previous year, no doubt on account of some patients being seen in the Psychiatric Out-Patient Department of the Hospital (This Psychiatric Out-Patient clinic forms part of the out-patient arrangements of the Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, and during 1944 was conducted by Dr. R. Strom Olsen, the Medical Superintendent of the Runwell Hospital).

Dr. W. G. Masefield reports as follows with regard to the Clinic at Oldchurch County Hospital, Romford :—

During 1944 the weekly Out-Patient Clinic at Oldchurch Hospital showed a further increase, the number of new patients presenting themselves for advice, diagnosis and treatment being 434 and old patients numbering 593, making a total number of attendances of 1,027, as against 922 in 1943. It is clearly necessary to increase the days and places of attendance at the earliest possible moment. Two days a week are required at Romford and there is scope for Clinics at Woodford and Grays. I am much indebted to Dr. Forbes, of the County Medical Staff, and Dr. Robb, of this hospital, for their valuable assistance, without which it would have been quite impossible to attempt to cope with the work.

BLIND PERSONS ACTS, 1920-38.

The facilities provided for the certification, medical supervision and general care of the blind have continued under the supervision of the Ophthalmic Specialists. The whole-time services of Miss L. H. Macfarlane, M.D., D.P.H., D.O.M.S., and part-time services of Messrs. T. Collyer Summers, F.R.C.S. ; E. J. Baldwin, M.B., B.Ch., D.O.M.S. ; H. D. Smart, M.D., B.S. ; S. G. Corner, M.D., D.O.M.S. ; D. D. Evans, M.D., D.O.M.S. ; and C. L. Gimblett, M.D., F.R.C.S., continued to be available.

During the year 372 persons were examined by the Specialists and occupational training given to 32 persons.

On 31st March, 1945, a total of 2,150 (males 986, females 1,164), were on the Blind Persons Register. Of these 2,099 (males 955, females 1,144) are over 16 years of age. 1,810 are classified as unemployable, viz., males 735, females 1,075, and of these 58 are in homes for the blind, 35 in mental hospitals and 131 in Public Assistance Institutions.

Of the trades, etc., followed by the blind workers, the main occupations show the following numbers :—

Mat makers	..	20	Machine knitters	..	18
Piano Tuners	..	17	Basket Workers	..	19
Poultry Keepers	..	15	Dealers	..	13
Music Teachers	..	8	Telephone Operators	..	9
Boot Repairers	..	7	Clerks and Typists	..	8

In addition 36 blind persons are in sighted industry.

PROVISION OF HOSPITAL SERVICE.

Hospitals.

The County Council's hospitals and institutions were again extensively used in connection with the Emergency Hospital Organisation, some 3,771 beds being reserved for the admission of the classes of patients for whom treatment was provided under that scheme. It can be stated now that the early part of the year 1944 was the occasion of much preparation, in anticipation of D-day, in connection with the possible reception of battle casualties from the continent of Europe. Happily events moved so swiftly

in our favour that it was unnecessary to make any large use of the beds reserved in Essex for this purpose.

The testing time of the hospital service was to come later with the introduction of the Flying Bomb and the Rocket Bomb. In anticipation of the use of the latter hospitals in the London area were evacuated, and accommodation in the County Council's hospital at Wanstead was reduced to that provided on the ground floor only. The patients were transferred to hospitals in the country, the chronic patients being sent to the Public Assistance Committee's institutions at Colchester and Saffron Walden.

Minor improvements were carried out to various hospitals in the course of the year, but conditions did not permit of anything in the nature of major works being carried out. Despite the urgent need for the provision of accommodation for maternity cases in the area served by the hospital, it was quite impossible to obtain the necessary consent to proceed with the provision of the maternity accommodation at the Essex County Council Hospital, Wanstead. The necessary provision was made for both staff and equipment during 1944, but at the end of that year there was still very little prospect of the work of adaptation being put in hand.

For reasons well-known in the County, it has not yet been thought opportune to take any steps towards the implementation of the intention of the Local Government Act, 1929, by making arrangements for the appropriation of further Public Assistance hospitals for Public Health purposes. The only appropriated hospital is the Oldchurch County Hospital, Romford, where much good work continues to be done.

During the year 1944 the report of the London Hospital Surveyors was in course of preparation. It was published early in 1945 and will form the subject of a report next year.

Co-ordination of Hospital Services.

Informal discussions were continued during the earlier part of 1944 between representatives of the British Hospitals Association and the Medical Officers of Health of the major local authorities in Essex with the object of bringing together all those who might be concerned in any kind of area organisation for both local authority and voluntary hospitals in the County. Arising out of these meetings, the County Council received an invitation to attend a representative conference in London in May, 1944, at which it was unanimously agreed to establish a hospitals joint body of a temporary character, consisting of representatives of voluntary and municipal hospitals in the geographical County of Essex. The purpose of this temporary joint body was laid down to be the local discussion of the factual parts of the reports of the Surveyors of hospital services and the Minister of Health's suggestions arising therefrom. There was no further progress to report in regard to this step forward in the co-ordination of hospital services at the end of the year under review, but much good progress had been made since.

Rehabilitation.

The application of the principles laid down in the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Disabled Persons (the Tomlinson

Report) was very fully investigated in consultation with the Medical Superintendents of the Council's hospitals, representatives of voluntary hospitals and representatives of other departments of the Council's service, and at the beginning of the year 1945 a report setting forth the general principles of a scheme applicable to the county was prepared for consideration by a special conference representative of interested Committees.

Towards the end of the year 1944, arrangements were approved whereby approximately 40 patients a year, suffering from general debility or neurosis might be sent to the Rehabilitation Centre which had been set up at Roffey Park, Horsham, Sussex. This Rehabilitation Centre is provided by funds to which Essex industrial firms have contributed to a large extent, and good use has been made of the facilities provided.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Civil Defence Emergency Ambulance Organisation rendered increasing assistance in maintaining an ambulance service in many areas of the county, the normal services again showing signs of the stress of war-time conditions. Added to this was the fact that the forecasts of a National Health Service indicated that in future ambulances would probably be based at hospitals instead of being provided by local authorities, which somewhat removed the incentive to take steps to improve the existing services.

The assistance of the Ministry of Health's Regional Office was sought to enable local authorities to obtain supplies and spares quickly, and also in certain instances to purchase new ambulances.

NURSING SERVICES.

Civil Nursing Reserve.

Members of the Civil Nursing Reserve have continued to give most valuable assistance to the overworked nursing staffs in hospitals and to First Aid Posts.

Recruits were not so numerous this year, but several intensive courses of instruction were given at the Goodmayes Emergency Hospital at the beginning of 1944.

When the reduction in the Civil Defence Services took place towards the end of the year, a number of members of the Reserve became redundant, and alternative work, *e.g.*, in hospitals, was, as far as possible, found for them within the Reserve.

The names of immobile members who had ceased to be available for employment or who could not be placed in employment in nearby hospitals were, in accordance with the policy of the Ministry of Health, removed from the register. The Civil Defence reductions noted above also, of course, resulted in a certain number of resignations.

During the year the Minister of Health indicated that Assistant Nurse members of the Civil Nursing Reserve might apply for admission to the Roll of Assistant Nurses, and that such Nursing Auxiliaries who had obtained the necessary experience in the nursing of the sick could also apply for admission. Assistant Nurses unable to obtain admission to the Roll were, in due course, removed from the register and only those persons on the Roll will, in future, be recruited as Assistant Nurses in the Reserve.

Miss H. R. Stock, D.N., S.R.N., who had acted as whole-time Organiser of the Civil Nursing Reserve since April, 1941, resigned in May, 1944, having obtained a permanent post with the Kent County Council. The Civil Nursing Reserve organisation in Essex undoubtedly owed its efficiency to the fact that Miss Stock was in charge of it during this period. The Ministry of Health did not consider it necessary to fill the vacancy by a whole-time officer, and the duties of Organiser have since that date been carried out on a part-time basis by Miss D. V. E. Neale, S.R.N., who is the Supervisor of War-time Nurseries appointed by the Ministry of Health.

Statistics submitted to the Ministry of Health on 31st December, 1944, indicated that there were 1,094 members on the Essex register of the Civil Nursing Reserve (164 Trained Nurses, 73 Assistant Nurses, 857 Nursing Auxiliaries). These, together with members on loan from other areas were employed at Emergency Hospitals, First Aid Posts and in Reception Areas.

General.

The position in regard to the shortage of nursing staff did not improve in any way during 1944, and the duties of the existing staffs were made more onerous because of the lack of domestic staff. As a consequence, nurses had to undertake domestic duties which they did willingly and with an entirely unselfish regard for the welfare of their patients. Figures provided for the Ministry of Health indicated that at the end of the year 1944 there were nearly 200 vacancies for nurses in the County Council's Public Health Hospitals and Sanatoria and nearly 100 vacancies for male and female domestic staff.

Regular advertisements for nurses made no appreciable difference to the situation and at the close of the year, the position was becoming acute. Appeals to the Ministry of Labour and National Service for domestic staff met with little response owing to the unavailability of suitable persons for this work.

The main work of the Midwives' Salaries Committee and the Nurses' Salaries Committee under the Chairmanship of Lord Rushcliffe, so far as salaries are concerned, was completed during the year by the publication of the Report of the Mental Nurses Sub-Committee. From time to time, however, the Committees publish suggestions as to the interpretation of their recommendations, and also revisions of previous recommendations they have made in the light of experience.

In September, 1944, the Minister of Health forwarded details of a Rest Break House for nurses and midwives established for the purpose of providing nurses and midwives with a short rest holiday for a small charge. The County Council agreed to release nurses and midwives in their service to enable them to take advantage of these facilities when necessary.

Assistant Nurses.

Action was taken in the course of the year to bring to the notice of appropriate grades of the County Council's nursing staff the requirements of Part I of the Nurses Act, 1943, urging them to make the necessary application to the Registrar of the General Nursing Council for enrolment as Assistant Nurses, before the last date for the receipt of such applications.

Rules relating to the training and examination of Assistant Nurses are now awaited from the General Nursing Council, and consultations were taking place in the course of the year with regard to the Rules to be made under Section 6 of the Act restricting the use of the title "Nurse".

Two examinations were held during the year in connection with the Essex Scheme for the training of Assistant Nurses. Thirty nurses successfully passed the examinations set, and qualified as Assistant Nurses, Category A.

CIVIL DEFENCE CASUALTY SERVICES.

Dr. Agnes V. Kelynack who had been responsible for the Casualty Services since 3rd June, 1940, left the service of the County Council in June, 1944, upon obtaining a post as an Assistant Secretary of the British Medical Association. During the four years of her service in Essex she raised the Civil Defence Casualty Services to a very high degree of excellence. She was succeeded by Dr. Isabella M. Hood.

During the first six months of 1944, the lull in enemy air activity experienced during 1943 continued, but the personnel of the Civil Defence Casualty Services remained as alert as ever, and were ready to cope with the renewed influx of casualties during the latter part of the year. These were occasioned by the introduction of the flying bomb and, towards the end of the year, the rocket bomb. A large proportion of the casualties suffered minor or major injuries from glass, and both weapons were the cause of more "seriously injured" than "fatal" casualties. These particular weapons, of course, caused a great deal more material damage than was occasioned by the concentrated bombing of 1940-41, and to this extent had a serious effect upon the housing problem.

The personnel continued to assist at hospitals, clinics, etc., during the quiet periods.

In September, 1944, it was considered that the progress of the war made it unnecessary to maintain the Civil Defence Services at their full strength, and authority was received from the Ministry of Home Security for reductions in both personnel and vehicles to be made. A proportion of whole-time members were therefore released to take up other work without any obligation to do even part-time duty.

The following figures are of interest as giving some idea of the position in regard to the Civil Defence services at the end of the year :—

				Personnel.				
		Number.		Whole-time.	Part-time.			Total.
<i>Fixed First Aid Posts—</i>								
(a)	Attached to hospitals	4	}	799	..	2,431	..	3,230
(b)	Others	86						
(c)	Closed on a care and							
	maintenance basis	4						
<i>Mobile First Aid Posts—</i>								
(a)	Heavy Units ..	22	}					
(b)	Light Units ..	16						
<i>First Aid Points—</i>								
(a)	Up-graded Points ..	26	..	—	..	313	..	313
(b)	Other Points ..	190	..	—	..	2,365	..	2,365

	Number.	Personnel.		Total.
		Whole-time.	Part-time.	
<i>Mobile Gas Cleansing Units</i> ..	20 ..	— ..	376 ..	376
<i>Ambulance Service—</i>				
(a) Ambulances—				
Whole-time ..	147	} 209 ..	760 ..	969
Part-time ..	12			
(b) Cars for sitting cases				
Whole-time ..	68			
Part-time ..	2			

Medical Rest Centres and Rest Homes for Homeless Persons.

The staffing difficulties met with generally throughout the hospital service also had their repercussions on the Medical Rest Centres and Rest Homes for homeless persons. These were not so acute in the earlier part of the year 1944 as they were later on, when it will be appreciated, that the advent of the flying bomb and rocket bomb resulted in the fullest possible use being made of all the available accommodation as under :—

- (a) Medical Rest Centres for Homeless Persons who were unfit to return to their own homes or a billet, *e.g.*, the aged and infirm, severely shocked, delicate, etc. :—

Beechlands, 42, Alderton Hill, Loughton.

Brookfield, Oak Hill, Woodford Green.

Holmhurst, Manor Road, Loughton.

5, Forest Drive, Leyton.

- (b) Medical Rest Homes for aged, infirm homeless persons :—

Church Hall, Broxton.

Little Waltham Hall, near Chelmsford.

PART II.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following tables and comments give in an abridged form a general survey of the work undertaken in the various branches of the County Tuberculosis Scheme, during the year. It is not possible to give many of the more intimate details of the working of the scheme, but sufficient information is supplied to indicate the continued growth of the work :—

TABLE III.

(a) Summary of notifications during the period from the 1st January, 1944, to the 31st December, 1944, in the area of the County of Essex.

	FORMAL NOTIFICATIONS.												Total Notifi- cations.
	Primary Notifications of New Cases of Tuberculosis.												
	Age Periods.												
	0—	1—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	Total (all ages)	
Pulmonary, Males ..	1	13	13	24	60	96	160	156	106	90	32	751	861
„ Females ..	3	11	11	28	96	138	156	69	38	25	9	584	704
Non-Pulmonary, Males.	4	31	43	32	15	10	18	12	4	4	3	176	195
„ „ Females	3	26	39	36	21	15	22	11	7	3	5	188	208

(b) **New cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the above-mentioned period, otherwise than by formal notification.**

[illegible]

The sources from which information as to the above-mentioned cases was obtained are shown below :—

Source of Information.						No. of Cases.	
						Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Death Returns { from local Registrars						—	—
{ transferable deaths from Registrar-General						—	—
Posthumous Notifications						17	11
“Transfers” from other areas (other than transferable deaths)						61	23
Other Sources. (Form I and II)						71	16
Total						149	50

TABLE IV.
NOTIFICATION REGISTER.

Number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining at the 31st December, 1944, on the Registers of Notifications kept by District Medical Officers of Health in the County.	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Total Cases
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
	4959	4230	9189	2032	1910	3942	

TABLE V.

SHOWING ATTACK AND DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

YEAR.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.				Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.				Tuberculosis (All Forms).			
	Noti- fica- tions.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Noti- fica- tions.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Noti- fica- tions.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.
1912-16	Not avail- able.		851	0.86	Not avail- able.		269	0.27	Not avail- able.		1120	1.13
1917-21			752	0.89			199	0.24			951	1.13
1922-26	1110	1.16	656	0.69	320	0.34	148	0.15	1430	1.50	804	0.84
1927-31	1110	1.00	710	0.64	382	0.34	141	0.13	1492	1.34	851	0.77
1932-36	1145	0.89	644	0.50	391	0.30	131	0.10	1536	1.19	775	0.60
1937-41	1161	0.87	612	0.45	348	0.26	116	0.09	1509	1.13	728	0.54
1942	1387	1.09	622	0.49	431	0.34	126	0.10	1818	1.43	748	0.59
1943	1417	1.11	639	0.50	436	0.34	109	0.09	1853	1.45	748	0.59
1944	1335	1.06	593	0.47	364	0.29	113	0.09	1699	1.35	706	0.56

There has been diminution in the death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis and it would seem that although limited owing to war-time difficulties, the special efforts made during this war to hold the disease in check have met with some measure of success.

It is to be hoped that both attack and death rates passed their "peak" figures in 1943 and that there will be a speedy return to the gradual decline in both attack and death rates which was the tendency in the years immediately preceding the outbreak of hostilities. There is no doubt that war-time conditions of overcrowding, overwork and malnutrition have shown their influence not only in the production of new cases, but in the breakdown of a number of patients in whom the disease was quiescent and who under better conditions might have maintained reasonable health and working capacity.

Whilst the value of modern methods of treating both pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis cannot be under-estimated, emphasis must still be laid on the need for continued improvement in housing, nutrition and working conditions.

Tuberculosis is a preventable disease for the reason that the conditions upon which it depends and in which it develops are known and are capable of being placed under human control. It is, therefore, necessary to keep continually well in the foreground the need for preventing the disease and not to allow the treatment of the disease to take first priority.

During 1944, the Ministry of Health transmitted 271 notifications concerning service men and women who were being discharged from the Forces on account of tuberculosis. Of this number 204 were recommended for institutional treatment under the County Tuberculosis Scheme. Notifications were received from the Ministry of Pensions during 1944 to the effect that 232 ex-Service men and women resident in the Administrative County of Essex had been granted pensions on account of tuberculosis.

Dispensaries.

The total number of patients (7,497) whose names are on the various Dispensary Registers continues to increase. In 1938 the total number was 5,516. This figure is likely to continue increasing until there is a much greater decline in the incidence rate. Although 1944 was the year of the "Flying Bomb" and the "Rocket" the total number of attendances by patients was greater than in 1943, the figures being 32,702 and 29,750 respectively.

There is no doubt that the dispensary service is being used more every year, not alone for the definite cases of tuberculosis but for diagnostic purposes. The general practitioner realises that an expert opinion, usually based upon X-ray evidence, is readily available, and a large number of "doubtful" cases are referred to the Tuberculosis Officer for an opinion. During 1944, there were 5,926 doubtful cases found non-tuberculous. This is also reflected in the large number of X-ray photographs taken for patients attending dispensaries, namely, 11,754 during 1944.

Apart from its use as a consultation centre, the Tuberculosis Dispensary is likely to become a centre at which the giving of artificial pneumothorax refills is undertaken.

Two Dispensaries, namely, Walthamstow and Ilford already have special sessions for artificial pneumothorax refills, and these prove not only a great convenience to patients in avoiding travelling but must also prove a financial saving to the County Council. During 1944, the number of artificial pneumothorax refills given to out-

TABLE VI.

Relating to the Work of the Dispensaries during the Year ended 31st December, 1944.

	PULMONARY.				NON-PULMONARY.				TOTAL.				Grand Total
	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
A. (1) Number of definite cases of Tuberculosis on the Dispensary Register at the beginning of the year	2775	2241	124	107	443	453	409	358	3218	2694	533	465	6910
(2) Transfers from other Authorities during the year	125	172	2	6	14	15	7	15	139	187	9	21	356
(3) Lost sight of cases returned during the year	35	23	1	—	2	6	2	3	37	29	3	3	72
B. Number of NEW CASES diagnosed as Tuberculous during the year—													
(1) Class T.B. minus	338	322	35	35	—	—	—	—	338	322	35	35	730
(2) Class T.B. plus	305	172	3	1	—	—	—	—	305	172	3	1	481
(3) Non-pulmonary	—	—	—	—	54	69	87	81	54	69	87	81	291
C. Number of cases included in A. and B. written off the Dispensary Register during the year as :—													
(1) Recovered	30	38	4	6	6	11	22	22	36	49	26	28	139
(2) Dead (all causes)	339	212	5	5	8	5	8	1	347	217	13	6	583
(3) Removed to other areas	97	164	4	10	6	15	6	14	103	179	10	24	316
(4) For other reasons	123	71	3	11	18	17	29	33	141	88	32	44	305
D. Number of definite cases of Tuberculosis on the Dis- pensary Register at the end of the year	2989	2445	149	117	475	495	440	387	3464	2940	589	504	7497

patients was 12,523, and of this number 3,865 were given at the Walthamstow and Ilford Dispensaries, 2,952 at County Council Hospitals, and 5,706 at hospitals not belonging to the County Council. A charge of 10/6 per refill is made against the County Council for the refills not given at their Clinics or Hospitals.

The Tuberculosis Health Visitors paid 20,378 visits to the homes of patients.

The following are extracts from the reports by the Tuberculosis Officers serving in the more thickly populated parts of the County :—

DR. H. RAMSAY (Walthamstow Dispensary).

The nature of the work in the Dispensary has been much the same as in recent years. Attendances at clinics remained very heavy, particularly the New Case Clinics and showed no sign of becoming lighter. The number of new cases seen at a single session is usually far too many to allow that careful attention which is necessary to give a consultant opinion. The work of 1944 as a whole confirms the view that the dispensaries of the Tuberculosis Service, when properly equipped, become for all practical purposes chest clinics dealing with all types of chest disease. It is clear that they must be regarded as such when consideration is given to future developments.

DR. J. G. CURRID (Ilford and Barking Dispensaries).

Work at the Tuberculosis Dispensaries at Ilford and Barking was carried on more or less on the usual lines during the year 1944. Attendances have continued to be very heavy, and it would seem that there is not only greater readiness on the part of the practitioners in the area to send doubtful chest cases for examination, but that there is greater willingness to attend on the part of contacts.

In this district, as elsewhere, the greatest difficulty in, and most disheartening feature of, the work, has been the inadequacy of institutional accommodation, resulting in patients, even those whose treatment is urgent, having to be kept waiting for prolonged periods for beds.

DR. J. T. BROWN (Grays Dispensary).

During the year under review, the feature which has characterised the work at this dispensary has been the increasing number of patients who have been referred to the dispensary for examinations. There is an increasing awareness among the practitioners in this area of the necessity for sending patients as soon as possible for a comprehensive examination in cases where a chest lesion is suspected. The practitioners have availed themselves of this facility freely and without exception.

DR. S. THOMPSON (Romford Dispensary).

The number of patients referred for an opinion, owing to chest symptoms, has shown an increase, though of all the new cases approximately only 17 per cent. were actually found to be suffering from tuberculosis. There has been a steady flow of diagnosed cases discharged from the Services and the Ministry of Pensions have asked for a report on all such cases who have been awarded a disability pension, thus further increasing the routine work of the Tuberculosis Officer.

Financial Allowances for Tuberculosis Patients.

The Government Scheme for providing allowances to tuberculosis patients falling within specified categories as detailed in Ministry of Health Memorandum 266/T was fully administered during the year and although as has been pointed out in many places on a number of occasions, much dissatisfaction is caused by the limited scope of the allowances, there is no doubt that the assistance provided has been extremely valuable in many instances. At the end of 1944 there were 592 patients receiving these allowances as compared with 452 at the end of 1943.

Mass Miniature Radiography.

It had been hoped that Mass Miniature Radiography would have commenced in the County during 1944, but numerous difficulties relating to staff, equipment, headquarters for the Unit, etc., made it impossible to do more than appoint an Organising Secretary.

Dr. Hugh Ramsay, the Tuberculosis Officer for the Walthamstow Area, has been given the title of Medical Director and he will undertake this work in addition to continuing a large part of the Dispensary duties in the Walthamstow Area. The appointment of Dr. F. Kellermann during the year made this arrangement possible as Dr. Kellermann's services were shared between the Walthamstow Area and the Ilford and Barking Areas.

It is hoped that the Unit will be in good working order during 1945, and if miniature radiography can be used as a means for reducing any rapid spread of tuberculosis among a population whose resistance may have been lessened and whose opportunities for infection have been increased by war conditions it will have served a very useful adjunct to the existing means for combating this disease.

Institutional Accommodation.

Although an average number of 994 beds was kept occupied during 1944, there was always a lengthy waiting list averaging 295 for the year.

During the year there were 1,371 recommendations for admission of patients to Hospitals and Sanatoria.

Staffing difficulties made the efficient administration of the accommodation available for tuberculosis patients, almost impossible. Only loyal and arduous work by the comparative "few" made it possible to maintain a reasonable measure of service.

It was not possible to re-open the 30 beds at the Harold Court Sanatorium which had been vacated during 1943 on account of shortage of staff and only 27 beds of the total of 57 beds were in occupation at the end of 1944.

Towards the end of the year, it was possible for the County Council to use again 72 beds at the Ilford Isolation Hospital, instead of 52.

At the beginning of 1944, the Halstead Isolation Hospital Board offered the County Council the use of 15 beds for women at their Isolation Hospital and this offer was accepted.

The following are interesting extracts from reports from the Medical Superintendents of the three County Sanatoria :—

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL HOSPITAL, BROOMFIELD (Dr. W. L. Yell).

Shortages in staff and materials are necessarily a feature of the fifth year of the war, but there are no innovations in diagnosis and treatment to record and no alteration in policy.

The immediate results of sanatorium treatment cannot be assessed simply by the proportion of recoveries attained. Even with the most favourable progress complete recovery from pulmonary tuberculosis requires longer than the patient can spend in sanatorium, and some other yardstick must be found for him. He is potentially dangerous so long as his sputum can disseminate the germs to others, and to fresh parts of his own lungs. It is vital then that tubercle bacilli should be banished from the sputum, *i.e.*, that the sputum, if any, should be *negative*, before the patient returns home. As methods of investigation improve, this classification becomes a more strict one, yet of 221 patients found tuberculous and completing treatment here in 1944, 139 were discharged "quiescent" (nearly 63 per cent.). Some credit must be given to improved technique in treatment, but longer in-patient treatment and longer time spent on bed-rest have been the notable developments in recent times. Curtailed treatment is inadequate treatment and carries no benefits worth while. The average stay has been extended to 12.5 months. The temptation to allow a lengthy waiting list, and a shortage of nurses to over-rule the needs of those undergoing treatment has been resisted, though it is plain that longer bed-rest means more nursing and therefore more nurses, and the corollary of doubling the period of treatment is that double the number of beds is required.

Catering difficulties are a feature of the war years, but the diet has not fallen below a reasonable standard in quality or amount. Recognition by hospital authorities of the importance of the catering department in the hospital economy and of the need for its further development is to be welcomed.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL HOSPITAL, BLACK NOTLEY. (Dr. M. C. Wilkinson).

During 1944, in spite of staffing difficulties, the number of beds for tuberculous patients was in excess of the number available in peace time.

The work of the Sanatorium was maintained and a greater turnover achieved, than in peace time, in spite of pressing war time difficulties, among which should be mentioned a possible apparent increase in the severity of the disease. The number of in-patients discharged in 1938 was 472, in 1944 it had increased to 561. In 1938 there were 945 out-patients seen, in 1944 this number had increased to 1,690.

Beds numbered 337, of which 156 were for the treatment of women suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 181 for men, women and children suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. This large variety of tuberculosis work is of especial importance in these days when so much consideration is rightly given to the nursing of tuberculous patients. At any Sanatorium which deals with all varieties of tuberculosis, the experience gained by the

nursing staff must necessarily be wide. The accumulation of medical experience also is sufficient to throw fresh light on some of the problems of tuberculosis and is reflected in the number of papers from Black Notley published in the medical press.

In-Patients. Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The foundations laid by the late Dr. W. Burton Wood have continued to form the basis of the treatment of women suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. Chief among these has been the long term stay in Sanatorium of the patient for whom there is hope of recovery. Recent improvements in treatment have been added ; in this respect special mention should be made of the intrathoracic division of adhesions and of pneumoperitoneum.

Maternity Unit.

The policy of allowing a woman with active tuberculosis to go to term and to conduct her confinement under Sanatorium conditions has continued to prove successful ; the number of such confinements including some women with quiescent tuberculous disease confined at Black Notley during 1944 was 37.

In-Patients. Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

As in the treatment of a patient suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis it is possible to expedite collapse of the lung by surgical intervention, and thus accelerate the cure of the patient, so also in the treatment of patients suffering from skeletal tuberculosis, quiescence may often be established more rapidly and a sounder result obtained by surgical intervention.

With regard to constitutional treatment, the feeding of the patient is of prime importance. Difficulties due to war time have in the main been successfully overcome and the question of feeding hospital patients in general is receiving national attention.

Out-Patient Treatment.

In addition to the treatment of in-patients there has been a considerable augmentation of the out-patient work carried on during the war.

E.M.S. Hospital.

Although this report deals only with the Sanatorium, it would be inadequate without reference to the E.M.S. hospital. The facilities of a general hospital have been added to those available in a Sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculous patients. I am glad to record the ready help the consulting and resident staff of the E.M.S. hospital have always been glad to give whenever possible in the tuberculosis wards.

HAROLD COURT SANATORIUM. (Dr. S. Thompson).

The work at this Sanatorium has been carried on as well as possible during the year, but we have suffered from shortage of nursing and domestic staff, which has only allowed 27 beds to be occupied out of a total of 57.

available during the winter months, and a possible further eight during the summer months.

The type of case admitted during the year has tended to be of less advanced type and therefore more amenable to active treatment.

Many of the patients and especially their relatives appreciate the accessibility of Harold Court for visiting purposes.

After-Care.

The nine voluntary Tuberculosis Care Associations spent an aggregate of £3,783 during the year ended 31st March, 1944, mostly on the provision of food (*e.g.*, milk and groceries), fuel and clothing. Although limited in scope, much valuable assistance has been rendered to the County Tuberculosis Scheme by these Associations and thanks are due to those who continued to find time during the busy days of war to help in this way.

In addition to the extra nourishment provided by the Care Associations the County Council made 177 grants during 1944 for milk to patients coming within appropriate categories.

PART III.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The County Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes, full details of which have been given in previous reports, were continued during the year in the 31 out of a total of 43 Sanitary Districts in which the County Council is the Welfare Authority. This Area remains the same as in the previous year. The County Council is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act in 37 of the 43 Sanitary Districts in the Administrative County.

The maternal mortality rate in the County Council's Welfare Area for the year 1944 according to figures supplied by the Registrar General is 2.11 as compared with 2.06 for the whole of the Administrative County and 1.93 for England and Wales.

The number of births, notified and unnotified, in the County Council's Welfare Area is given below, together with the number of notifications of Maternal Deaths.

No. of Births notified by—		No. of Births Unnotified.	No. of Notifications of Maternal Deaths.
Midwives.	Drs. and Parents.		
6347	2784	78	13

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, Ante-Natal Clinics, etc.

During the year 1944 one Ante-Natal Clinic was established at Mayland in the Maldon Rural District, and Weighing Centres at Willingale in the Ongar Rural District, Wix in the Tendring Rural District, Herongate in the Brentwood Urban District, and Ford End in the Chelmsford Rural District. At the end of the year 1944, there were 38 Ante-Natal Clinics, 121 Child Welfare Centres, 20 Weighing Centres, 6 Toddlers Clinics and 10 Women's Welfare Clinics in the County Welfare Area.

Provision of Milk and Medicaments.

The Ministry of Food National Milk Scheme continued to operate during the year 1944 for expectant and nursing mothers and children under the age of five years. The Health Visitors and Voluntary Workers continue to co-operate with Local Food Officers and assist in the storage and distribution of fruit juices and cod liver oil. In May, 1944, information was received from the Ministry of Food that the Lexden & Winstree, West Mersea and Wivenhoe areas had the highest percentage of vitamin products distributed in the British Isles.

The whole scheme has worked most satisfactorily owing to the very ready and helpful co-operation of the local officers of the Ministry of Food.

Home Helps and Domestic Helps.

As indicated in the report for the year 1943, the scheme in connection with Home Helps provides for the employment of Home Helps in a full-time capacity. They are occupied for the bulk of their time as Home Helps, when not so employed their services are utilised in connection with domestic work in nurseries hospitals or clinics near their homes. At the end of the year 1944, four full-time Home Helps were employed; they attended 37 cases during the year. In addition 90 Home Helps employed on a part-time basis have attended 117 cases.

In December, 1944, the Ministry of Health issued Circular 179/44, in relation to Domestic Help for the following types of cases: -

- (i) Where the housewife falls sick or must have an operation;
- (ii) Where the wife is called away to see her husband in hospital and arrangements have to be made for the care of the children;
- (iii) Where elderly people are infirm, or suddenly fall ill;
- (iv) Where several members of a family are ill at the same time.

During the year 1944, at the request of the County Council, enquiries were made by the Local Sanitary Authorities concerned, assisted by the Health Visitors and various Voluntary Associations, to ascertain the need for such a service in any particular area. In most of the areas it was found that a need did exist, but up to the time of writing no applications have been received for appointment as whole-time Domestic Helps. In three cases of emergency, however, it was possible to assist by utilising the services of Home Helps. Details of further arrangements made will be included in next year's report.

Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations 1939.

Copies of notifications made by medical practitioners were received from Medical Officers as indicated below:—

	Administrative County.		County Council. Welfare Area.	
	1943.	1944.	1943.	1944.
Puerperal Pyrexia	225	188	45	45

Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations 1926-1937.

In the Administrative County during the year 34 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified, eight of which referred to patients residing in the County Council's Welfare Area. The following particulars relating to these patients have been obtained:—

Treated		Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Death.
At Home.	In hospital.				
7	1	8	—	—	—

Hospital Treatment of Maternity Patients.

The arrangements for the admission of maternity patients to Hospital for confinement have continued as in previous years. Largely as a result of war conditions and staffing difficulties, the existing accommodation has been found to be insufficient.

This is particularly marked in the south-western portion of the County, but in the connection the proposed Maternity Unit at the Essex County Council Hospital, Wanstead, referred to in last year's Report, will be a considerable asset. In addition it is anticipated that the Maternity Unit at the Orsett Lodge Hospital will also be reopened in 1946.

Owing to the shortage of Midwifery Staff it was necessary for the Maternity Ward at St. James' Hospital, Saffron Walden, to be closed for a short period. A portion of the Maternity Unit at St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford, was also closed for cleansing purposes. Arrangements were made for patients from Saffron Walden to be accommodated at the Haymeads Hospital, Bishops Stortford, during the closure of St. James' Hospital, and by arrangement with the Ministry of Health the whole of the Emergency Maternity Home at Writtle Park was made available for County Council patients who were unable to be accommodated at St. John's Hospital.

During 1944, 2,282 patients were admitted to Hospitals and Maternity Homes under the County Council's arrangements as compared with 1,671 for the year 1943. This does not include evacuated maternity patients admitted to the Emergency Maternity Home at Writtle Park, who numbered 275 in 1944.

Again tribute must be paid to the excellent services rendered by the Emergency Maternity Home established at Danbury Park. The beds provided there have been of material assistance in meeting the needs of women who, for various reasons, cannot have their babies at home.

Treatment of Orthopaedic Patients.

The Orthopaedic Scheme has continued to be available for children under the age of five years. During the year, 49 children received hospital in-patient treatment, 3,445 children attended at after-Treatment Centres and 1,424 examinations were carried out by the Orthopaedic Surgeons.

An additional After-treatment Centre was established at Waltham Abbey in November, 1944, sessions being held twice a month, thus making a total of 25 Centres in the area served.

Obstetric Specialist.

Mr. Alan Brews, the part-time Obstetric Specialist, has been of great assistance to Assistant County Medical Officers and medical practitioners in the areas for which the County Council is the Local Supervising Authority and Welfare Authority. The total number of examinations carried out by Mr. Alan Brews during the year was as follows :—

Clinic.				No. of patients examined.
Danbury Park Maternity Home	..	..	..	354
St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford	..	..	..	106
Chingford Combined Treatment Centre		..	..	58
Total	..	..	..	518

The number of other examinations carried out totalled 324, making a total of 842 examinations. In addition he carried out 89 operations.

A most interesting and instructive Clinical Demonstration and Lecture was given by Mr. Brews at the London Hospital in March, 1944, which was attended by the County Council's Ante-Natal and Child Welfare Medical Officers.

Nursing Homes.

The number of Registered Homes at the end of the year was as follows :—

(a) Maternity Homes only	..	..	..	18
(b) Maternity and Nursing Homes	..	..	..	18
(c) Nursing Homes (including Convalescent Homes)	..	..	..	17

The usual routine inspections have been carried out at regular intervals during the year and all Homes were found to be satisfactory although the difficulties of running a Nursing Home in war-time have been accentuated by lack of staff.

Child Life Protection.

At the end of the year there were 375 foster children in the care of 216 foster mothers. 15 of these foster mothers have agreed to participate in the Council's Scheme for the Care of Illegitimate Children referred to later on in this Report.

Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939.

This Act was brought into operation on the 1st June, 1943, and during the year 1944, 27 notifications were received which resulted in the adoption of 13 children. In the remaining 14 cases the arrangements for adoption were still pending at the end of the year.

Midwifery Service.

(a) GENERAL. The following table shows the number of midwives employed under the County Scheme at the end of the year 1944, together with the number of cases attended during the year :—

			Midwifery.	Maternity.
18 County Council Midwives	..	..	633	187
26 Welfare Council Midwives	..	..	995	492

The establishment of Midwifery Staff was increased during the year by the appointment of a Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives on 4th December, 1944, together with two additional domiciliary County Council Midwives.

(b) PRACTISING MIDWIVES. At the end of the year there was a total of 325 practising midwives in the area for which the County Council is the Local Supervising Authority. The total number of live births and still births which occurred in 1944 in the 37 out of 43 Sanitary Districts comprising the area for which the County Council is Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts (*i.e.*, excluding the Boroughs of Barking, Colchester, Dagenham, Ilford, Leyton and Walthamstow) was 14,434, and of these 8,401 (58.2 per cent.) were attended by midwives in the capacity of Midwife, and 3,392 (23.5 per cent.) in the capacity of Maternity Nurse.

2,032 records of Medical Aid having been called in by State Certified Midwives were received during the year (24.2 per cent.).

Essex County Nursing Association.

By the employment of 163 District Nurse Midwives and 15 District Nurses, the Essex County Nursing Association continues to render invaluable assistance in maintaining an adequate Midwifery and District Nursing Service, particularly in the rural parts of the County.

The agreement between the Essex County Nursing Association and the County Council has recently been revised and came into operation on the 1st April, 1945.

Hostel for Mothers and Babies, Ardmere, Buckhurst Hill.

As indicated in last year's report, this Hostel was opened in May, 1943, for the reception of mothers with their babies after confinement who may experience some difficulty in coping with their immediate future. The Hostel has continued its excellent work and during the year 41 mothers and babies were admitted.

Arrangements were made for Student Health Visitors and Probationers from Nurseries to assist at the Hostel in order to obtain the required practical knowledge of the care of the normal infant.

Care of Premature Infants.

As indicated in last year's report, consideration has been given to Circular 20/44 dated 22nd March 1944 issued by the Ministry of Health relating to the most important question of the Care of the Premature Infant.

The County Council has recently approved the appointment of Dr. K. E. Tallerman, part-time consulting pædiatrician. His services will be available in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Services of the County, and with the Consultative Clinic at Oldchurch County Hospital, Romford. In addition, Dr. Doynne Bell has been appointed to undertake one or more sessions per week as occasion demands.

Arrangements have been made for the weight at birth of all infants to be shown on the Notification of Birth Card and where this is $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less, the Health Visitor is informed so that the infant can be kept under special observation and any necessary advice given to the mother concerned.

Where necessary the services of a Home Help are made available.

As soon as conditions permit, it is anticipated that all recommendations suggested by the Ministry of Health will be put into effect, such as :—

Special equipment, including draught-proof cots, electric blanket pads, etc. ;

Provision of Health Visitors or Midwives with special training and experience with premature infants ;

Special wards in Hospitals and special form of transport to convey children to hospital.

Care of Illegitimate Children.

As a result of Circular 2866, dated 1st October, 1943, issued by the Ministry of Health, the following additional arrangements were brought into effect during the year :—

(a) FOSTER MOTHERS. A Scheme is in operation whereby the County Council guarantee payment to suitable foster mothers who are willing to undertake the care and maintenance of babies apart from their mothers. At present 15 foster mothers have intimated their willingness to participate in the Scheme.

(b) CO-OPERATION WITH VOLUNTARY BODIES. Grants have been made to the Chelmsford Diocesan Moral Welfare Association to assist in maintaining the various Shelters established by that Association.

In addition, negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of suitable premises for the establishment of a Residential Nursery capable of accommodating 20—22 children.

Provision has been made for the participation of Autonomous Welfare Authorities in these schemes and a number of such Authorities have intimated their desire to do so. The Hostel for Mothers and Babies at Buckhurst Hill, referred to on page 36, will also materially assist in connection with the care of the illegitimate child.

General.

In November, 1944, by Circular 154/44, the Ministry of Health requested Welfare Authorities to undertake the issuing of priority dockets to enable expectant mothers who are being confined in their own homes to obtain a supply of sheets. Up to the end of the year 645 priority dockets had been issued to expectant mothers in accordance with the terms of the Circular.

Combined Medical Service.

CLACTON AND FRINTON & WALTON.

The services of Dr. W. A. Milne, Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County Medical Officer for the Clacton and Frinton & Walton Urban Districts, who was due for retirement in September, 1943, were continued for a further period of one year from 16th September, 1944.

CHINGFORD.

In view of the acute shortage of medical man-power, at the suggestion of the Ministry of Health, arrangements were made for Dr. W. D. Hyde, Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County Medical Officer for the Borough of Chingford, to be released from his County Council duties on 19th February, 1945, in order to act as Medical Officer of Health for both the Urban District of Enfield and the Borough of Chingford.

THURROCK.

Dr. Marjorie Swain and Dr. A. D. Heller, Assistant Medical Officers of Health and Assistant County Medical Officers in the Thurrock Area, resigned their appointments

during the year. It had not been possible to fill these vacancies at the end of the year 1944, but Dr. D. C. Adam and Dr. Alice Seelig were appointed temporarily to fill the posts and took up duty during 1945.

Emergency Maternity Homes and Residential Nurseries, etc.

(a) EMERGENCY MATERNITY HOMES.

(i) *Writtle Park (30 beds).*

This Home has continued to function and as indicated previously in the report was used entirely for the reception of County Council Maternity patients from 5th November, 1944. During the year a total of 660 patients was admitted.

(ii) *Danbury Park (20 beds).*

The arrangements made between the Essex County Council and Mrs. J. T. Wiggin for the reception of expectant mothers from Essex to this Home were continued and during the year 250 County Council patients were admitted. In addition patients were admitted from other areas.

(b) RESIDENTIAL NURSERIES.

St. Paul's Residential Nursery, Walden Place, Saffron Walden (12 children).

St. Luke's Residential Nursery, Newton Hall, Dunmow (45 children)

"Farmadine," Saffron Walden (12 children).

"Carina," Walden Grove, Saffron Walden (12 children).

These Nurseries have continued to operate satisfactorily during the year. In March, 1945, the accommodation at St. Luke's Nursery was reduced to 30 children.

(c) WAR-TIME DAY NURSERIES.

One War-time Day Nursery was established during the year and the following have continued to operate satisfactorily :—

	Accommodation.	Opened.
Langdon Hills, Women's Institute Hut, High Road (part-time)	25 children aged two to five years	17th June, 1942
Hornchurch, 75, North Street (whole-time)	30 children (10 under two years of age, 20 between two and five years of age)	1st July, 1942.
Witham, "Brookcote", Chipping Hill (whole-time)	40 children (eight under two years of age, 32 between two and five years of age)	14th Sept., 1942.
Rainham, Rainham Hall, (whole-time)	45 children (twelve children under two years of age, 33 between two and five years of age)	6th Jan., 1943.

	Accommodation.	Opened.
Waltham Abbey, The Cedars, Sewardstone (whole-time)	40 children (ten under two years of age, 30 between two and five years of age)	16th March, 1943.
Maldon, 44, Mill Road .. (whole-time)	30 children (six under two years of age, 24 between two and five years of age)	10th May, 1943.
Friends' Meeting House, Saffron Walden (part-time)	40 children between two and five years of age	1st Dec., 1941.
Chingford, 136-138, Chingford Mount Road (whole-time)	52 children (18 under two years of age, 34 between two and five years of age)	20th Sept., 1943.
Chingford, Hatch Lane .. (whole-time)	50 children (20 under two years of age, 30 between two and five years of age)	12th April, 1944
Upminster, 23 Hall Lane, (whole-time)	40 children (twelve under two years of age, 28 between two and five years of age)	1st Dec., 1943.
Elm Park, Hornchurch, 8 and 9, Elm Park Parade (whole-time)	30 children, one to five years of age	29th Dec., 1943.

(d) ANTE-NATAL HOSTEL, THE CHESTNUTS, OXNEY GREEN.

As indicated in last year's report, this Hostel was opened on 20th January, 1944, and up to the end of the year 140 expectant mothers were accommodated prior to admission to the Emergency Maternity Home at Writtle Park.

PART IV.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

Hospital Services.

The difficulties referred to in regard to the shortage of beds arising out of the reservation of beds in connection with the Emergency Hospital Scheme mentioned in last year's report continued throughout 1944.

The arrangements in connection with maternity units at the Public Assistance Committee's institutions were the cause of some concern during the year 1944.

As has been noted on page 34, it was necessary to restrict the admission of maternity cases to the St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford, to allow of the thorough cleansing of a portion of the unit. The number of cases admitted to this unit had for some time exceeded 1,000 a year, and as the result of a report on the future arrangements of the unit, made by the County Obstetric Specialist, Mr. Alan Brews, approval was given to the appointment of a Resident Obstetric Surgeon. Dr. B. Poland took up duties in this capacity early in 1945.

Domiciliary Medical Services.

Following upon the resignation or death of the existing District Medical Officers, new temporary appointments were made in the following medical relief districts :—

Blackmore

Chigwell

Fyfield

Great Wakering

Pentlow

Saffron Walden

There was also one change in the panel set up under the Free Choice of Doctors Scheme at Walthamstow.

The question of medical attention to poor persons residing on Wallasey Island caused some concern during the year 1944, it being reported that doctors in the Rochford area had found difficulty in reaching patients on the island. In consultation with the Essex Consultative Committee of the British Medical Association alternative satisfactory arrangements were made.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

42

52 WEEKS ENDED 30TH DECEMBER, 1944.

(Figures obtained from the Quarterly Corrected Returns, Civilians only).

	SCARLET FEVER.	DIPH- THERIA.	MEASLES.	WHOOPING COUGH.	PARA- TYPHOID FEVER.	ENTERIC FEVER.	PUERPERAL PYREXIA.	ERYSIP- ELAS.	OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.	PNEU- MONIA.	ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.	ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.	MALARIA.	CEREBRO- SPINAL FEVER.	DYSEN- TERY.	CHICKEN POX.	VARIOUS.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
URBAN.																	
BARKING B. ..	152	9	151	479	—	—	4	35	5	45	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
BENFLEET ..	17	—	20	143	—	—	1	6	—	16	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
BELLERICAY ..	43	2	32	216	—	1	—	2	—	32	—	—	—	—	1	—	16
BRAINTREE AND BOCKING ..	93	10	2	19	—	—	1	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BRENTWOOD ..	48	5	37	225	—	—	4	3	—	21	—	—	—	—	106	—	23
BRIGHTLINGSEA ..	3	—	3	14	—	—	—	—	—	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
CANVEY ISLAND ..	6	1	11	3	—	—	1	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CHELMSFORD B. ..	55	—	483	66	—	—	9	11	3	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CHIGWELL ..	23	2	72	37	—	—	—	5	—	8	—	—	—	3	34	—	—
CHINGFORD B. ..	80	2	61	72	—	—	2	5	1	73	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
CLACTON ..	23	—	7	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	20	—	—
COLCHESTER B. ..	74	4	28	134	2	1	12	13	3	53	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
DAGENHAM B. ..	205	12	176	412	—	—	18	27	2	105	—	—	4	6	20	—	30
EPPING ..	8	2	113	93	—	—	9	1	—	10	—	—	—	2	26	—	9
FRINTON AND WALTON ..	4	—	3	48	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	26	20	—
HALSTEAD ..	2	—	—	11	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
HARWICH B. ..	50	1	3	27	—	—	1	3	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HORNCHURCH ..	194	7	154	229	—	—	9	23	—	61	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ILFORD B. ..	265	37	423	954	2	1	30	72	3	272	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
LEYTON B. ..	198	9	134	198	—	—	10	27	5	67	—	—	1	6	59	—	16
MALDON B. ..	7	—	9	68	—	—	—	8	—	17	—	—	—	1	—	48	—
RAYLEIGH ..	2	1	4	30	—	—	—	3	—	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
ROMFORD B. ..	137	3	46	190	—	—	17	18	—	21	—	—	—	5	20	—	—
SAFFRON WALDEN B. ..	36	—	8	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
THURROCK ..	223	12	248	63	—	—	4	15	1	66	—	—	—	2	16	—	3
WALTHAM HOLY CROSS ..	5	—	5	3	—	—	—	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
WALTHAMSTOW B. ..	174	13	405	195	—	1	28	20	1	79	—	—	—	4	82	—	—
WANSTEAD AND WOODFORD B. ..	70	19	51	139	—	—	6	6	—	35	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
WEST MERSEA ..	2	—	1	10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	1
WITHAM ..	20	—	—	44	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
WIVENHOE ..	2	1	2	26	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL ..	2131	152	2683	4150	4	4	169	315	24	1091	—	3	6	48	450	68	101
RURAL.																	
BRAINTREE ..	35	—	1	22	—	—	4	2	—	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
CHELMSFORD ..	28	—	148	99	—	—	3	5	4	6	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
DUNMOW ..	23	—	36	137	—	—	1	2	—	8	—	—	—	2	5	—	—
EPING ..	19	—	61	74	—	—	2	2	—	16	—	—	—	—	3	—	23
HALSTEAD ..	13	—	16	33	—	—	—	3	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
LEXDEN AND WINSTREE ..	41	1	7	144	—	—	—	4	1	17	—	3	—	2	—	—	36
MALDON ..	31	—	8	36	—	—	1	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ONGAR ..	24	—	60	47	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	2	2	—	5
ROCHFORD ..	42	1	7	45	—	—	2	8	—	13	—	—	—	—	55	—	—
SAFFRON WALDEN ..	26	1	13	47	—	—	2	6	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
TENDRING ..	35	5	4	59	—	—	2	3	2	8	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTAL ..	317	8	361	743	—	—	17	36	7	95	—	4	—	11	66	—	73
TOTAL—BOROUGHES AND URBAN DISTRICTS ..	2131	152	2683	4150	4	4	169	315	24	1091	—	3	6	48	450	68	101
TOTAL—RURAL DISTRICTS ..	317	8	361	743	—	—	17	36	7	95	—	4	—	11	66	—	73
TOTAL FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY ..	2448	160	3044	4893	4	4	186	351	31	1186	—	7	6	59	516	68	174